

**MATERIALISTIC LIFESTYLE  
IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S  
*THE GREAT GATSBY*:  
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements  
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department**

**ISMI KUSUMANINGRUM**

**A. 320 030 069**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA  
2007**

**APPROVAL**

**MATERIALISTIC LIFE-STYLE**

**IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S**

***THE GREAT GATSBY:***

**A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

by:

**ISMI KUSUMANINGRUM**  
**A 320 030 069**

Approved to be examined by consultants

Consultant I

Consultant II

**(Drs. M. Thovibi, MS)**  
**NIK. 410**

**(Anam Sutopo, S.Pd., M.Hum)**  
**NIK. 849**

**ACCEPTANCE**  
**MATERIALISTIC LIFE-STYLE**  
**IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S**  
***THE GREAT GATSBY:***  
**A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**By:**

**ISMI KUSUMANINGRUM**  
**A 320 030 069**

Accepted by the Board of Examiners  
School of Teacher Training and Education  
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

**The Board of Examiners:**

1. Drs. M. Thoyibi, MS ( )  
(The first Consultant)
2. Anam Sutopo, S.Pd., M.Hum ( )  
(The Second Consultant)
3. Drs.H. Maryadi, M.A. ( )  
(Member)

Approved  
School of Teacher Training and Education  
Dean,

**Drs. H. Sofyan Anif, M.Si**  
**NIK. 574**

## **TESTIMONY**

With this, I state that there is no plagiarism of the previous researches which has been made to get bachelor degree of a university and as long as the writer knows that there is also no work or opinion that ever been composed or published by other people, except referred written in this research paper mentioned in bibliography. Hence, if it is proved that there is mistake in the writer's statements, I will be wholly responsible.

Surakarta, June 11 2007

The writer

Ismi Kusumaningrum

**MOTTO**



**SO VERILY, ALLAH WILL NOT CHANGE PEOPLE’S CIRCUMTANCES TILL  
THEY CHANGE THEIR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES**

**(AR-RAD: 11)**

**O believer, seek assistance in patience and prayer.**

**Truly Allah is with the people who are patient**

**(Al Baqarah: 153)**

## DEDICATION

*I dedicate this research paper to:*

*My beloved Father and Mother*

*Suroso and Endang Sri Sidonongsih*

*My beloved sister and brother*

*Wiwit Endah Werdiningrum and Heri Kuswibowo*

*All of my relative*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillahirobbil'alamin, praise and gratitude only to ALLAH SWT, the glorious, the lord and the all mighty, the merciful and the compassionate, who has blessed and opportunity for the researcher to finish the paper entitled”  
**MATERIALISTIC LIFE-STYLE IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD’S *THE GREAT GATSBY* : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

The researcher would like to express her deepest gratitude and appreciation to the people who have given their help in form of motivation, suggestion, information even criticism so that she is able to finish and complete this research paper in a good way. In this occasion, the researcher gives her deepest gratitude and appreciation to:

1. **Drs. M. Thoyibi M.S** as the first consultant and as the inspiring lecturer for giving his time, willingness, great help, advice, guidance and patience so that the researcher is interested in literature, then motivated and courageous to finish the research paper.
2. **Anam Sutopo, S.Pd, M.Hum** as the second consultant for giving his time to examine and correct this research paper so that this research paper is appropriate and qualified to be accepted.
3. **Drs. H. Maryadi M.A** as the third examiner thanks for his wisdom and advice.

4. **Drs. Sofyan Anif, M.Si.**, as the Dean of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, who has given the legalization toward her research paper.
5. **Koesoemo Ratih S.Pd M.Hum.**, the Head of English Department of Muhammadiyah university of Surakarta who has given the researcher permission for the agreement for writing this research paper.
6. **Titis Setyabudi, S.S** as the academic consultant for having guidance and help during the researcher's study in this university.
7. All the lecturers in English Department for having share, help and motivation for this research paper.
8. The librarians of UMS, UNS and the officials of internet café for giving and providing the researches with references.
9. Her beloved parents, **Mr. Suroso and Mrs Endang Sri** as a big motivator during writing this research paper for prays, support, moral and material during the making of this research paper.
10. Her beloved sister and brother in law "**Mbak Iwok and mas Lukman**" for support and advice.
11. Her new brother in Solo "**Mas David,**" for his advice during the writing this research paper and love.
12. Her beautiful cousin **THata**, for computer until finishing the research paper
13. Her best friends, **Fitri "sheva" Kurniawan, Annisa "nyit2", iDA "bERBEQUE" Kusuma wardani, Idhun. W, Desi "Doris" Wulandari, Axioma Dany, Arin-chan, Bintari "gingsul", Endah "Ancient" , Mei Tri**



- Wulandari, and NoPeX “Santi Noviana** for having togetherness in sadness and happiness with the researcher during the writing of this research paper.
14. Her best friends in linguistic major, **Kharisma “Mamah”, Yulianti Erfina, Khoirun Nafiah “Nafi”, Dian Esti, Widowati, Rina Wulandari, and many more**, for giving advice togetherness in campus.
  15. Her friends, **mbak Wita, mbak Nugraeh, zuMira, Jasinta, Rina** for their sharing, supporting each other and crying together during the consultation of writing of this research paper.
  16. Her friends in drama, **HARAJUKU “Haiiikk....,haiiikkk”** , crews for having laugh and chilling out together during the making of this research paper.
  17. Her friends in **PPL, SMK MUHAMADIYAH I KARTASURA** for togetherness and to get new experience in learning.
  18. Her friends in campus **Class B 2003** for togetherness in four years in UMS campus.
  19. Her neighbor in Khotijah boarding house sister **Kadina ”Dinul” destul Bedhes (Desi)** for giving support, sharing, crying and happiness in boarding house
  20. Her best friend **Karina “KARIN” kesuMa IlhaM** for help, sharing, advice, sadness and support to finish writing this research paper.
  21. Her best sister **Boz mbaK “wuNdi”** for giving advice, share experience and support to finish writing this research paper

21. Her sister in “**Khotijah (boarding house)**”, sist **Uut, Dias, Ammah, Titin”Tince”, Tia , mb Yunie, maiA, iKa, and Tiwi**, for supporting during writing research paper.

At last, the researcher wants to thank for the reader, especially those who are interested and enthusiastic to this research paper in making of any suggestion and criticism that may be useful and make this research paper becomes better both in form and content. The researcher hopes this research paper would give advantage and beneficial to everyone.

*Wassalaamu’alaikum Wr. Wb.*

Surakarta, Juni 2007

The researcher

**IK**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE.....	i
APPROVAL .....	ii
ACCEPTANCE.....	iii
TESTIMONY.....	iv
MOTTO.....	v
DEDICATION.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xi
ABSTRACT.....	xv
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xvi
<b>CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Background of the Study.....	1
B. Literature Review.....	5
C. Problem Statement.....	6
D. Limitation of the Study.....	6
E. Objective of the Study.....	7
F. Benefit of the Study.....	7
G. Research Method.....	7
H. Research Paper Organization.....	9
<b>CHAPTER II: UNDERLYING THEORY.....</b>	<b>10</b>
A. Materialistic Life-Style.....	10

B. Sociology of Literature.....	12
C. The Notion of Sociology of Literature.....	14
D. Types of Sociology of literature.....	16
1. Sociology of the Writer.....	17
2. Sociology of the Society... ..	17
3. Sociology of the Reader..... ..	19
E. Structural Elements of the Novel..... ..	19
1. Character and Characterization..... .	20
2. Setting.....	21
3. Plot.....	22
4. Point of View .....	25
5. Style.....	27
6. Theme.....	30
F. Theoretical Application.....	30

<b>CHAPTER III:      SOCIAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN SOCIETY AT THEA EARLY TWENTY CENTURY.....</b>	<b>32</b>
A. Social Aspect.....	32
B. Economic Aspect.....	36
C. Political Aspect.....	40
D. Science and Technology Aspect.....	41
E. Cultural Aspect.....	41
F. Religious Aspect .....	45

<b>CHAPTER IV:</b>	<b>STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS.....</b>	<b>47</b>
A. Structural Elements of the Novel.....		47
1. Character and Characterization.....		47
a. Major Character.....		48
b. Minor Character.....		53
2. Setting.....		61
a. Setting of place.....		61
b. Setting of Time.....		64
3. Plot.....		64
a. Exposition.....		64
b. Complication.....		65
c. Climax.....		69
d. Resolution.....		71
e. Causality.....		73
f. Plausibility.....		74
4. Point of View.....		75
5. Style.....		76
a. Grammatical Structure.....		76
b. Sentence construction.....		77
c. Diction.....		78
d. Figurative language.....		79
1) Figure of Through.....		79
2) Figurative of Speech.....		80

	3) Symbol.....	82
	4) Imagery.....	84
	6. Theme.....	84
	B. Discussion.....	85
<b>CHAPTER V:</b>	<b>SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF <i>THE GREAT</i></b>	
	<b><i>GATSBY</i>.....</b>	<b>89</b>
	A. Sociological Analysis.....	89
	1. Social Aspect.....	89
	2. Economic Aspect.....	95
	3. Political Aspect.....	99
	4. Science and Technology.....	100
	5. Cultural Aspect.....	101
	6. Religious Aspect.....	106
	B. Discussion .....	107
<b>CHAPTER VI:</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION .....</b>	<b>111</b>
	A. Conclusion .....	111
	B. Suggestion .....	112
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<b>VIRTUAL REFERENCES</b>		
<b>APPENDICES</b>		

## ABSTRACT

**ISMI KUSUMANINGRUM: A 320 030 069 MATERIALISTIC LIFE-STYLE IN F.SCOTT FITZGERALD'S *THE GREAT GATSBY*: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2007.**

The object of this research is the novel entitled *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. He is one of the greatest of American writers and socialist critics. The major problem of this study is how materialistic life-style is reflected in the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald is based on a sociological approach. It happens because in America, in early twentieth century they have dream called American dream. American dream makes people in America become materialistic life-style.

The researcher employs qualitative method. In this method, the researcher uses two data sources, namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the novel itself. The secondary data sources are the sociological book, some books about American civilization and the other sources related to the analysis. The method of data collection is library research and the technique of data collection is descriptive technique.

Based on the social historical background of American society at early twentieth century, materialistic life-style happened in American society; they have dream to get wealthy, prosperity, money, glamour, and social status. They try to get wealthy by doing anything whether it is legal or illegal. The author wishes to say that materialistic does not guarantee people get happy life. Happiness may occur when people can live with someone whom they love, and live in peace, friendship, and love.

Key words: Materialistic life-style, Sociological Approach, American Dream and Great Depression.

Consultant I

Consultant II

**(Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S)**  
NIK. 410

**(Anam Sutopo, S.Pd., M.Hum)**  
NIK. 849

Dean of English Teacher Training and  
Education Faculty

**Drs. H. Sofyan Anif, M. Si**

**NIK.547**



## List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Synopsis.....	115
Appendix 2. Biography of the Author.....	117